E 160
.D73

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

SIEUR DE MONTS PUBLICATIONS

VI

Wild Life and Nature Conservation in the Eastern States

ISSUED BY
THE WILD GARDENS OF ACADIA
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

Monograph

E 160
.I93

First glimpse of the ocean on the path to Huguenot Head in the Sieur de Monts national park upon the coast of Maine

3 192

SIEUR DE MONTS PUBLICATIONS

VI

WILD LIFE AND NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE EASTERN STATES.

James Bryce
Kerner von Marilaun Univ. of Vienna
A. F. Schimper Univ. of Bonn
C. S. Sargent
U. S. Forestry Report

The Appalachian region of America contained until lately the finest temperate-zone forest, and the richest in species, in the world. It ranged unbrokenly from the northern boundary of the United States to Alabama and the Red River region of Louisiana, and it stretched from the Atlantic lowlands to the prairies. Now, comparatively little of this forest is left in an unaltered state; its area has shrunk to a fraction of what it was, and is still shrinking rapidly.

It is a forest of immense antiquity. The earliest fossil record of the broad-leaved, deciduous-leaved type of tree found in the world is found in deep-placed rock-strata of the southern Appalachians, and the evidence is strong that never since that immeasurably far-off time has the long succession of its trees been broken, south of the limit of ice-sheet invasion. It is unique today in species no longer to be found elsewhere, such as the Tulip Tree, of which a dozen other species once dwelt within it; the Magnolias—now elsewhere found in eastern Asia only; the Tupelo, the Liquidamber, Sassafras, and others. Anciently as rich as it in these and other forms, the whole continent of Europe at the present time can scarcely show one-half its wealth in genera and species.

A. R. Wallace

Giant Maple-tree in Pennsylvania

. L. Fernald

These species, forever irreplaceable if lost, are—like many of our native wild-flowers, birds and animals whose home the forest was—seriously endangered under existing conditions; and eastern America stands in the way today of losing swiftly, in a single human lifetime, its long inheritance of wealth and beauty in the natural world, in trees, in flowering shrubs and plants, in birds and other forms of animal life.

. S. Shaler
C. Russell
P. Lesley

Again, the Atlantic coast lands on the one hand and the Mississippi Valley, with its branches, on the other, are regions destined to be permanent and crowded homes of industry and trade—homes of men, that is, on a vast scale. Between them, and everywhere within easy reach from them, lie the Appalachian mountain ranges, of great natural beauty and refreshing quality in extensive tracts, the ancient home of these magnificent forests, the source of streams, rich in delightful undergrowth and faunal life. This region of woods

harles Eliot

and mountains, terminating in a magnificently watered region in the north, presents possibilities of incalculable importance to the crowded city populations of the East, the South, and the great Central Plains. To save it to the utmost in beauty and refreshing quality is imperative, in view of the great coming need, and it is yet more imperative to save to those who will come after us the

. R. Wallace

forest's wealth of tree and plant species, of bird and other animal life. For these are things, precious in every sense, that once lost are lost forever, and not a few are lost already.

. F. Schimpei

utch and English Colonial Reports

What is now proposed is this—founded partly on a scheme urged years ago by Dutch and English naturalists for the preservation of the native forest and its associated life in their eastern col-

A magnificent region of mountains, lakes, and forest in the north

onies and partly on the knowledge that biologists have gained in recent years concerning bird and other wild life conservation: To establish a systematic chain of reserves, large or small as opportunity serves but selected always with well-studied reference to the preservation and favorable exhibit of the native forest and other floras, the bird and other faunas of their region; and to choose these areas, also, so as to make of each, so far as possible, a scenic reservation and a park, contributing to health and pleasure and the development of a love for nature.

A. R. Wallace

Charles Eliot

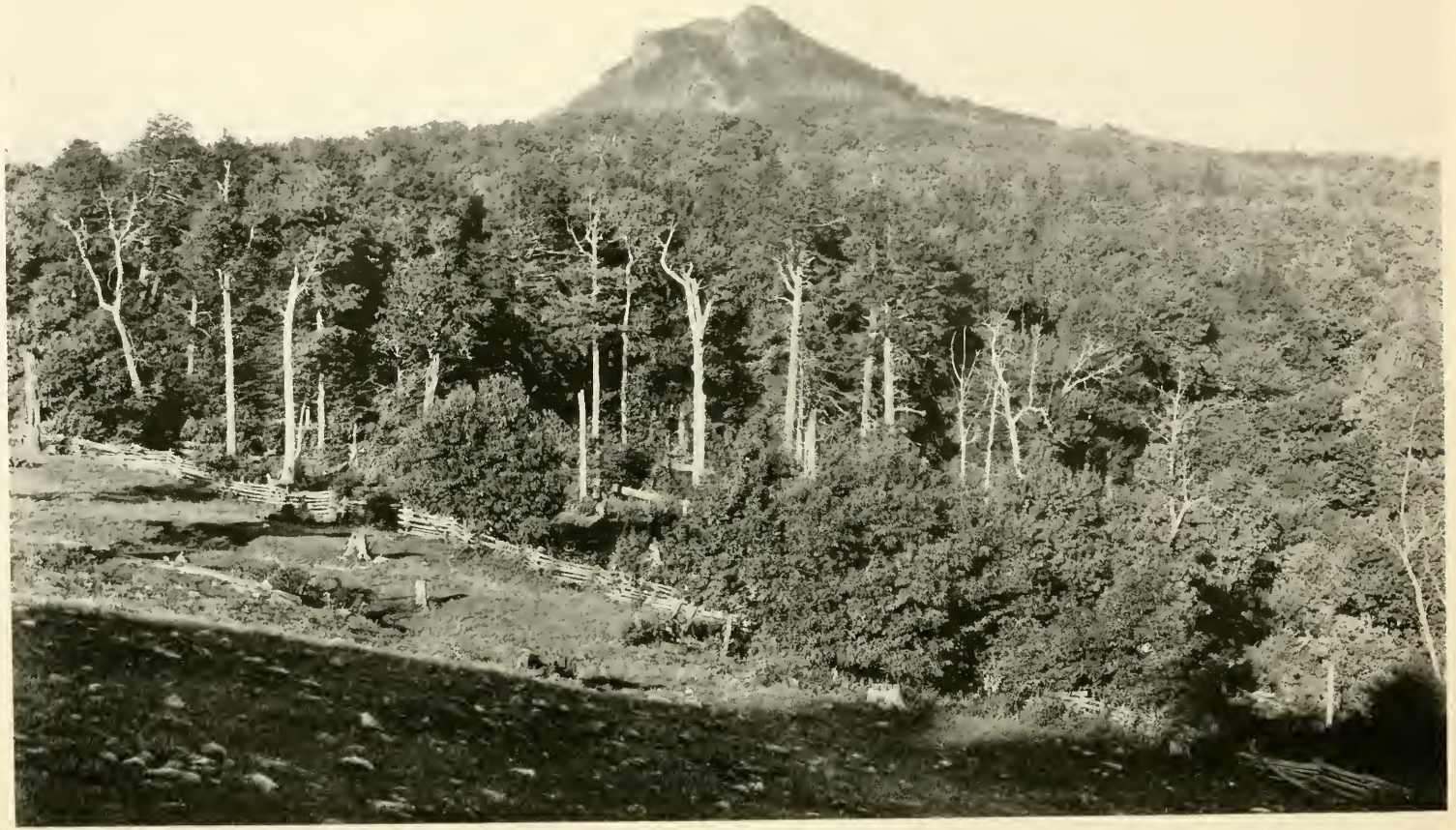
Each such reserve would thus contribute—variously, according to its character—toward these general ends: (1) the preservation of the native forest flora, its trees and underplants; (2) the preservation of bird and other forms of animal life, natively inhabiting the forest; (3) opportunity for scientific observation and study of these both, existing naturally under their original conditions; (4) conservation, in the public interest, of beautiful and inspiring landscapes; (5) the establishment of a means of study for planters, landscape architects and foresters who have work to plan and carry out in the surrounding region.

National Assn. Audubon Societies

In certain places, one or the other of these objects would be dominant—as bird sanctuaries along the shore from Cape Cod southward, or scenic reservations in tracts of exceptionally striking scenery, such as mountain heights and river gorges or beautiful coast landscapes.

James Bryce

To the development of landscape work along broad and natural lines—work soundly based on nature—nothing that could else be done, no train-



Grandfather Mountain and its hard-wood forest, North Carolina

American Institute of Architects

ing in schools or study of foreign examples impossible of reproduction here, would contribute so liberally as this. In exhibiting to architects and landscape architects, or men charged with the development of public parks, the whole range of native material within their reach, a work of widest influence would be accomplished, and one that would aid greatly in the creation of a national landscape art.

C. S. Minot

M. L. Fernald

For the botanist and entomologist such reserves, grouped in a linked series readily and quickly traversed, would not only provide living collections of the rare plant and insect species of each region, difficult to study otherwise, but would also save from destruction many an interesting life form else certain to become extinct as the woods are cut away, the lands denuded and burnt over.

U. S. Biological Survey

For the preservation of the bird and other wild life of the Continent, migratory as the former largely is, absolute sanctuaries, well grouped and not too far apart, have already proved themselves beyond dispute essential, in the presence of a time where human forethought and prompt action only can avert the swift destructiveness of human agencies more ruinous biologically and wider spread than the destructive agencies of any previous age, glacial or other, the rocks or later clays reveal.

George B. Dorr.

Forest interior in the Southern Appalachians—Scale is given by the man and horse upon the trail

Ancient sea-cliff on Mount Desert Island, raised by coastal elevation and deeply sunk in woods

103 W

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 003 449 792 8